

Arbitration NMB offers both interest and grievance arbitration. Interest arbitration is a process to establish the terms of a new or modified collective bargaining agreement through arbitration, rather than through negotiations. Although its use is not statutorily required, interest arbitration decisions are final and binding with very narrow grounds for judicial appeal.

Grievance arbitration, involving the interpretation or application of an existing collective bargaining agreement, is mandatory. In the railroad industry, NMB has significant administrative responsibilities for the three grievance-arbitration forums: the National Railroad Adjustment Board (NRAB), Special Boards of Adjustment (SBAs) and Public Law Boards (PLBs). NRAB and its four divisions have statutory jurisdiction over all rail carrier's and all crafts and classes of railroad employees. SBAs are created by mutual agreement of the parties, and PLBs are established on individual railroads upon the written request of either party to a dispute. Grievance arbitration in the airline industry is accomplished at the various system boards of adjustment created jointly by labor and management at the parties' expense. NMB furnishes panels of prospective arbitrators for the parties' selection on both the airline and railroad industries. Arbitration decisions are final and binding with very limited grounds for judicial review.

Sources of Information

Electronic Access Information pertaining to Board operations including weekly case activity reports, representation determinations, press releases, and an agency directory are available on the Internet at www.nmb.gov.

NMB Knowledge Store NMB's Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution designed, built, and implemented a public archive, available through the NMB Web site, containing public documents related to the agency's operations back to its inception in 1934. Currently, the Knowledge Store contains over 100,000 documents in an easily searchable format, including arbitration awards, representation decisions, annual reports, PEB reports, industry contracts, and union constitutions and bylaws.

Publications The *Annual Reports of the National Mediation Board* are available on the NMB Web site (www.nmb.gov) in the Knowledge Store. A limited supply of hard copies, both current and past, are also available for public distribution. Phone, 202-692-5031.

Virtual Reading Room Copies of collective-bargaining agreements between labor and management of various rail and air carriers and NMB Determinations (back to at least October 1, 1998) are available on the NMB Web site (www.nmb.gov) in the Knowledge Store.

For further information, contact the Public Information Officer, National Mediation Board, Suite 250 East, 1301 K Street NW., Washington, DC 20005-7011. Phone, 202-692-5050. Internet, www.nmb.gov.

NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION (AMTRAK)

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[For the National Railroad Passenger Corporation statement of organization, see the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Title 49, Part 700]

The National Railroad Passenger Corporation was established by Congress to meet the Nation's intercity passenger transportation needs.

The National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) was created by the Rail Passenger Service Act of 1970, as amended (49 U.S.C. 241), and was incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia to provide a balanced national transportation system by developing, operating, and improving U.S. intercity rail passenger service.

Amtrak operates approximately 300 trains per day, serving 510 stations in 46 States, over a system of 21,800 route miles. Of this route system, Amtrak owns about 535 route miles in the Northeast Corridor, and several other small track segments elsewhere in the country.

Amtrak owns or leases its stations and owns its own repair and maintenance facilities. The Corporation employs a total workforce of approximately 18,600 and provides all reservation, station, and on-board service staffs, as well as train and engine operating crews. Outside the

Northeast Corridor, Amtrak contracts with privately or publicly owned railroads for the right to operate over their track. Under contract, these railroads are responsible for the condition of the roadbed and for coordinating the flow of traffic.

In fiscal year 2006, Amtrak transported over 24 million people with 66,000 passengers traveling on Amtrak per day. Also, Amtrak runs commuter trains under contract with several commuter agencies.

Although Amtrak's basic route system was originally designated by the Secretary of Transportation in 1971, modifications have been made to the Amtrak system and to individual routes that have resulted in more efficient and cost-effective operations. In the face of budget constraints, new service will only be added if a State agrees to cover any operating losses.

For further information, contact the Government Affairs Department, Amtrak, 60 Massachusetts Avenue NE., Washington, DC 20002. Phone, 202-906-3918. Internet, www.amtrak.com.

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